

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original): A method of forming a synthetic material, comprising:
providing a base material for one or more components, the base material being an expandable material that is tacky at a temperature between about 0 °C and about 80 °C; and
providing at least one substantially non-tacky surface to the base material to form the synthetic material with the at least one substantially non-tacky surface and at least one tacky surface.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (original): A method as in claim 1 wherein the step of providing at least one substantially non-tacky surface includes applying a film to at least one surface of the base material such that the film provides the at least one substantially non-tacky surface.

Claims 4-6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (original): A method as in claim 3 wherein the film includes one or more correspondence components corresponding to the one or more components of the base material.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method as in claim 7 ~~claim 8~~ wherein the one or more correspondence components of the coating include at least one epoxy resin material.

Claim 10-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (new): A method as in claim 3 wherein the film is non-tacky at a temperature below about 80 °C.

Claim 22 (new): A method as in claim 7 wherein the film is non-tacky at a temperature below about 80 °C.

Claim 23 (new): A method as in claim 7 wherein at least a portion of the one or more correspondence components are thermoplastics.

Claim 24 (new): A method as in claim 7 wherein at least a portion of the one or more correspondence components are elastomers.

Claim 25 (new): A method as in claim 7 wherein the one or more correspondence components comprise at least about 60% by weight of the film.

Claim 26 (new): A method as in claim 9 wherein the one or more correspondence components comprise at least about 60% by weight of the film.

Claim 27 (new): A method as in claim 9 wherein the film includes between about 5% and about 50% by weight epoxy resin and the epoxy resin has an EEW between about 200 and about 300 and wherein the epoxy resin represents at least a portion of the one or more correspondence components.

Claim 28 (new): A method as in claim 9 further comprising contacting the base material with release paper.

Claim 29 (new): A method as in claim 7 wherein the one or more correspondence components have a substantially identical monomer or oligomer configuration relative to the one or more components of the base material.

Claim 30 (new): A method as in claim 9 wherein the one or more correspondence components have a substantially identical monomer or oligomer configuration relative to the one or more components of the base material.

Claim 31 (new): A method as in claim 9 wherein the one or more correspondence components include an epoxy resin that is substantially identical to an epoxy resin in the base material.

Claim 32 (new): A method as in claim 7 further comprising applying the synthetic material to a member of the automotive vehicle by contacting the substantially non-tacky surface of the synthetic material such that the tacky surface of the synthetic material contacts the member of the automotive vehicle.

Claim 33 (new): A method as in claim 9 further comprising applying the synthetic material to a member of the automotive vehicle by contacting the substantially non-tacky surface of the synthetic material such that the tacky surface of the synthetic material contacts the member of the automotive vehicle.

Claim 34 (new): A method as in claim 33 further comprising activating the base material and film to cure at an elevated temperature during automotive processing.